**Which Antacid Should I Choose?**

An antacid is a substance that neutralizes stomach acidity. Antacids react with the acid in your stomach that causes indigestion to increase the pH. Some common antacids are Alka-Seltzer (baking soda), Maalox, Milk of Magnesia, Pepto-Bismol, and Tums. In this activity, we will be focusing on baking soda and Milk of Magnesia. Baking soda (NaHCO3) is often used as an antacid because it takes part in the following reaction:

NaHCO3 + HCl NaCl + H2O + CO2

Milk of magnesia (Mg(OH)2) is also used as an antacid because it takes part in the following reaction:

Mg(OH)2 + 2 HCl 2 H2O + MgCl2

Is one of the antacids more effective than the other? How do you know? Determine which antacid is more effective in neutralizing stomach acid per gram. Write a scientific explanation to support your answer.